

### REMARKS

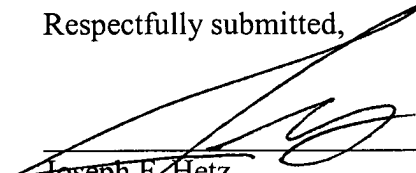
Applicants appreciate Examiner Hoosain's willingness to conduct a telephone interview on January 5, 2006 with the undersigned attorney. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the substance of that interview.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended the independent claims to make clear that the sequence of characters comprises characters and digits selected by the user. In the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that these amendments were fully supported in Applicants' specification and would place this application in condition for allowance pending an updated search. It should be noted that these amendments were made to expedite the prosecution of this application and should not be construed as an admission that the pre-amended claims are unpatentable over the cited art. Indeed, Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to pursue the subject matter of the pre-amended claims.

If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4719.

Dated: January 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph F. Hetz  
Reg. No. 41,070  
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER  
GILSON & LIONE  
P.O. Box 10395  
Chicago, Illinois 60610  
(312) 321-4719